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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 002279

SIPDIS

NSC FOR AGUIRRE

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [EG](#)

SUBJECT: EGYPT: EL BARADEI'S "CONDITIONED" PRESIDENTIAL RUN

REF: CAIRO 2209

Classified By: Minister-Counselor for Economic and Political Affairs Donald A. Blome, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1.Key Points: -- (C) Mohammed El Baradei's December 4 statement stops short of a commitment to run in Egypt's 2011 presidential elections. Now  
2.(C) Comment: Thus far El Baradei's true political aspirations remain unclear. He is surely aware of his ability to influence the debate at hc  
3.(C) On December 4, former chairman of the IAEA Mohammed El Baradei issued a statement on Egypt's 2011 presidential elections endorsing many c  
4.(C) El Baradei's reform message in the statement is broad. It adds weight to calls for constitutional reforms from others, like well-known jc  
5.(C) Strong criticism of the statement from state media and ruling-party officials, including several NDP members of parliament, was immediate  
6.(C) Media comments from some reform-oriented voices within the National Democratic Party (NDP) suggest competition is either welcome or not s  
7.(C) Journalist and blogger Issandr Amrani told PolOff he thought the effort to undermine El Baradei has instead undermined the Presidency, ar  
8.(C) Opposition party leaders have responded largely with tempered praise to El Baradei's comment. Reveling in the embarrassment they believe